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animal there is recovered for human consumption about 18 per cent. in milk, and only about 3½ per cent. in beef. In an official Report on the Food Supply of the United Kingdom, it is estimated that the production of 100 calories of human food in the form of milk from a good cow, requires the consumption of animal feed by the cow of 2.9 pounds starch equivalent; 100 calories milk from a poor cow is estimated to require the consumption of 4.7 pounds; while 100 calories of beef from a steer 2½ years old, is estimated to require the consumption of 9 pounds of starch equivalent in food.

Stated in terms comparable with those used by Dr. Armsby, this would mean that the good milk cow returns 20 per cent. of the energy value of what she consumes, the poor milk cow 12 per cent., and the good beef steer only 6 per cent. Although this estimate is more favorable to the beef steer than is that of Dr. Armsby, yet even by this estimate it will be seen that the poor cow is twice as efficient, and the good milk cow more than three times as efficient as the beef steer in the conservation of energy in the food supply.

Considering the whole length of life of the animal, Professor Wood, the leading English agricultural expert, estimates that the cow returns in milk, veal and beef, $\frac{1}{12}$ as much as she has consumed, while the beef steer returns only $\frac{1}{64}$. In other words, the cow is five times as efficient as the beef steer as a food producer when the whole life cycle of the animal is considered.

Similarly it has been estimated by Cooper and Spillman (Farmers Bulletin, No. 877, 1917, U. S. Department of Agriculture) that the crops grown on a given area may be expected to yield from four to five times as much protein and energy for human consumption when fed to dairy cows as when used for beef production. As Professor Wood has very strikingly shown, the longer the time that the beef animals are fattened on grain, the less economical the process becomes.

But not only is the milk cow several times more efficient than the beef steer in the conservation of proteins, fats and carbohydrate for human consumption, but in the gathering and preparation of mineral elements and vitamines she contrasts even more favorably with the beef animal. It is largely because of its richness in calcium and in fat-soluble vitamine that milk is the most efficient nutritional supplement to bread or other grain products.

SCIENTIFIC ITEMS

WE record with regret the death of George Egbert Fisher, professor of mathematics in the University of Pennsylvania; James Gayley, past president of the Institute of Mining Engineers; James Emerson Reynolds, formerly professor of chemistry at the University of Dublin; Charles Lapworth, for many years professor of geology and physiography in the University of Birmingham; Pier Andrea Saccardo, emeritus professor of botany in the University of Padua, and Woldemar Voigt, the mathematical physicist of the University of Göttingen.

AT a meeting held in the rooms of the Royal Society, to consider the question of a memorial to the memory of Lord Rayleigh, it was agreed that a fund should be raised for the purpose of placing a memorial, preferably a window, in Westminster Abbey. A committee was appointed to consider details and the further question of raising a fund in memory of Lord Rayleigh, to be used for the promotion of research in some branch of science in which he was specially interested.—Dr. Harvey Cushing, Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, Boston, has been requested by

Lady Osler to prepare a biography of Sir William Osler. He will be grateful to any one who will send him either letters or copies of letters, or personal reminiscences, or information concerning others who might supply such information.

THE University of Pittsburgh has conferred honorary doctorates upon Dr. William H. Nichols, retiring president of the American Chemical Society, and Dr. William A. Noyes, present president.

SIR JAMES DEWAR has been elected a corresponding member of the French Academy of Sciences in the section of physics in succession to the late Professor P. Blaserna.

THE National Research Council has appointed a committee on eugenics, under the division of biology and agriculture with Dr. C. B. Davenport, as chairman, and this committee has voted to hold the Second International Eugenics Congress in New York City, September 22 to September 28, 1921 on the invitation of the American Museum of Natural History Dr. Alexander Graham Bell has been elected honorary president and Dr. Henry F. Osborn, president.

PROFESSOR ALBERT A. MICHELSON, of the University of Chicago, has been elected a foreign associate of the Paris Academy of Sciences to succeed the late Lord Rayleigh.—The Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia has awarded its Hayden memorial geological medal to Professor T. C. Chamberlin, of the University of Chicago.—The Bruce Gold Medal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific has been awarded to Professor Ernest W. Brown, of Yale University.

SIR AUCKLAND GEDDES, formerly professor of anatomy and principal-elect of McGill University, now a member of the British cabinet as president of the board of trade, has been named as British ambassador to the United States.

MR. J. OGDEN ARMOUR has made a further gift of six million dollars to the Armour Institute of Chicago. A new site for the school has been purchased at the cost of one million dollars, and five million dollars will be expended on buildings.—Yale University has received from Bayard Dominick, of the class of 1894, Yale College, gifts amounting to $40,000 for scientific exploration in the Southern Pacific Ocean. Professor Herbert E. Gregory, of Yale, is the active head of the expedition.